

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for detecting an object, comprising:
emitting a light pulse;
receiving a reflection of said light pulse;
indicating a presence of the object from said received light pulse;
and,
adjusting sensitivity of said indicating step based on an elapsed
time from said emission.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said adjusting step
increasing said sensitivity as said elapsed time from said emission
increases.

3-4 (Cancelled).

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein sensitivity has a first
sensitivity value at a first elapsed time and a second sensitivity value at
a second elapsed time after said first elapsed time, said second
sensitivity being greater than said first sensitivity.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said emitting step
includes:

transmitting said light pulse to a polymeric light reflector; and,
reflecting said light pulse outwardly from said light reflector.

7-10 (Cancelled).

11. (Original) A method for detecting an object, comprising:
emitting a plurality of light pulses;
receiving a reflection of said light pulses;
indicating a presence of the object from said received light pulses;
and,
adjusting sensitivity of said indicating step based on a travel time
of said pulses.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said emitting step
includes:

transmitting said plurality of light pulses to a polymeric light
reflector; and,
reflecting said light pulses outwardly from said light reflector.

13. (Original) A system for detecting an object, comprising:
a light source generating a light pulse, said light pulse being
emitted;

a light detector configured to receive a reflection of said pulse;
and,

a controller operably connected to said light source and said detector, said controller configured to indicate a presence of the object from said received light pulse, said controller further configured to adjust sensitivity for detecting the object based on an elapsed time from said emission.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 further comprising a polymeric light reflector receiving said light pulse from said light source and reflecting said light pulse toward the object.

15. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein said light source comprises a near infrared diode laser.

16. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein said light detector comprises a near infrared light detector.

17. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein said sensitivity is adjusted to have a first sensitivity value at a first elapsed time and a second sensitivity value at a second elapsed time after said first elapsed time, said second sensitivity being greater than said first sensitivity.

18. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture, comprising:
a computer storage medium having a computer program encoded therein for detecting an object, said computer storage medium comprising:
code for inducing a light transmitter to emit a light pulse;
code for storing values indicative of a reflection of said light pulse;
code for indicating a presence of the object from said stored values;
and,
code for adjusting sensitivity for detecting the object based on elapsed time from said emission.

19. (New) A method for detecting an object, the method comprising:
emitting a light pulse;
receiving a reflection of the light pulse; and
indicating presence of the object when a power level of the received light pulse exceeds a signal threshold that decreases based on elapsed time from the emission.

20. (New) A method for detecting an object, the method comprising:
emitting a light pulse;
receiving a reflection of the light pulse;

indicating presence of the object when a power level of the received light pulse multiplied by a signal gain that increases with elapsed time from emission is greater than a detection threshold.